

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

General Notice

DATES AND DRAFT AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION

AGENCIES: U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, and U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Publication of the dates and draft agenda for the twenty-second session of the Harmonized System Review subcommittee of the World Customs Organization.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the dates and draft agenda for the next session of the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee of the World Customs Organization.

DATE: August 8, 2000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Myles B. Harmon, Director, International Agreements Staff, U.S. Customs Service (202-927-2255), or Eugene A. Rosengarden, Director, Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements, U.S. International Trade Commission (202-205-2592).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The United States is a contracting party to the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System ("Harmonized System Convention"). The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System ("Harmonized System"), an international nomenclature system, form the core of the U.S. tariff, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. The Harmonized System Convention is under the jurisdiction of the World Customs Organization (established as the Customs Cooperation Council).

Article 6 of the Harmonized System Convention establishes a Harmonized System Committee ("HSC"). The HSC is composed of representatives from each of the contracting parties to the Harmonized System Convention. The HSC's responsibilities include issuing classification decisions on the interpretation of the Harmonized System. Those decisions may take the form of published tariff classification opinions concerning the classification of an article under the Harmonized

System or amendments to the Explanatory Notes to the Harmonized System. The HSC also considers amendments to the legal text of the Harmonized System. The HSC meets twice a year in Brussels, Belgium.

In order to ensure that the Harmonized System continues to remain current, the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee ("RSC") was created as a subcommittee of the HSC. The RSC is responsible for periodically reviewing the Harmonized System and proposing amendments to the legal text that reflect changes in technology and in patterns of international trade. The RSC is composed of the same representatives as the HSC. As with the HSC, the RSC meets twice a year in Brussels, Belgium. The next session of the RSC will be the twenty-second, and it will be held from September 18 to 22, 2000.

In accordance with section 1210 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-418), the Department of the Treasury, represented by the U.S. Customs Service, the Department of Commerce, represented by the Census Bureau, and the U.S. International Trade Commission ("ITC"), jointly represent the U.S. government at the sessions of the HSC. The ITC representative serves as the head of the delegation at the sessions of the RSC.

Set forth below is the draft agenda for the next session of the RSC. Copies of available agenda-item documents may be obtained from either the Customs Service or the ITC. Comments on agenda items may be directed to the above-listed individuals.

(Signed) Myles B. Harmon

Myles B. Harmon, Director,
International Agreements Staff

Attachment

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 22nd SESSION
OF THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE**

From: Monday, 18 September 2000 (10 am.) to Friday, 22 September 2000

I.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Draft Agenda.....NR0104E1

II.

GENERAL QUESTION

1. Report on the meetings of the Policy Commission (43rd Session)
and the Council (95th and 96th Sessions).....NR0105E1
2. Scope of the 3rd HS Review Cycle.....NR0106E1

III.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

A. FURTHER STUDIES

1. Amendment of the HS 2002 Explanatory Notes arising from the
classification of bitter limes referred to as "*Citrus latifolia*" and
"*Citrus aurantifolia*" subheading 0805.50.....NR0107E1
2. Amendment of the Explanatory Note to heading 40.10.....NR0108E1
NR0126E1
3. Amendment of the Explanatory Notes to Chapter 41.....NR0109E1
4. Amendment of the Explanatory Note to heading 85.25.....NR0110E1

B. NEW QUESTIONS

1. Possible amendments to the Nomenclature regarding the
classification of sauces.....NR0111E1
2. Possible amendments to the Nomenclature to clarify the distinction
between headings 19.05 and 20.05.....NR0112E1

3. Possible amendments to Note 1 (c) to Chapter 41 regarding hides and skins of camels.....NR0113E1
4. Proposal by the Canadian Administration to amend the Nomenclature and Explanatory Notes to Chapter 54.....42.239
42.476
(RSC/1 8)
NR0114E1
5. General study of Note 5 to Chapter 84.....NR0115E1
6. Possible amendments to the Nomenclature and Explanatory Note to heading 84.42.....NR0116E1
7. Possible amendments to the Nomenclature and Explanatory Note to heading 84.71.....NR0117E1
8. Possible amendment of the text of heading 85.25 to clarify the classification of cameras.....NR0118E1
9. Possible amendment of Note 5 (b) to Chapter 85.....NR0119E1
10. Amendment of the text of subheading 9021 10 in order to align the French and English versions.....NR0120E1
11. Amendments to the legal texts consequential upon the amendments to the Recommendation of 25 June 1999 to be made by corrigendum.....NR0121E1
12. Amendment of the text of heading 83.09 in order to align the French and English Versions.....NR0122E1
13. Possible amendments to Note 2(n) to Chapter 48, Note1(e) to Chapter 56 and Note 5(h) to Chapter 59..... NR0123E1
14. Possible amendment of Note 3(a) to Chapter 64.....NR0124E1
15. Possible replacement of subheading Note 1(a) to Section XI regarding elastomeric yarn by a new Note to Section I.....NR0125E1